31st July 1946.] [The Hon. Sri T. Prakasam.]

down. The Government of India hope to supply further quantities of rice, wheat and wheat products in September and October, but how much will be allotted by them and how much will actually arrive are uncertain. There is no indication at all of what help will be available in November and December, as the Government of India are reviewing the position every month and are allotting quotas only about a month in advance.

"In these circumstances it has become necessary to take steps to conserve the existing stocks of rice. The Government have therefore regretfully decided to reduce the rice portion of the ration to 8 oz. in the case of rice-eaters with effect from 4th August 1946, as otherwise we shall be landed in a very awkward situation, if imports do not arrive in sufficient quantities or in time. Heavy manual labourers will however continue to get 10 oz. of rice as at present.

"If the position improves later, I need hardly say that the rice portion of the ration will be increased. In the meantime I appeal to the Members and to the public to put up with the inconvenience and help the Government to get through these three difficult months. One way of immediate help is to consume the large quantities of maize and wheat and wheat products that are being supplied and reduce the strain on rice. Another way of help is to improve the procurement of the short-term crops which will be harvested in September and October. The Government have already announced sufficient inducement by announcing a bonus for delivery of the short-term crops up to the 15th of November 1946. If the response is satisfactory, it may be possible to restore the cut much sooner than the present position indicates."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The general discussion on the budget will take place on 6th, 7th and 8th August, as the hon. Members already know. I do not propose to lay down any time-limit for the general discussion at present, but that does not mean that I do not reserve my right to do so if necessity arises. I hope that all members will co-operate with me in trying to finish the discussion within the three days. I need not also inform members that written speeches are at a discount."

V.—GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS.

(i) HOUSE COMMITTEE.

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" Sir, on behalf of the Hon. Sri B. Veeraswami, I move—

"'*that under rule* 143 *of the Madras Council Rules, the House do proceed to elect six members to the House Committee according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote in accordance with the regulations made in this behalf by the President.*' "

The motion, duly seconded, was put and carried. 4-15 p.m.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have to inform the House that, in accordance with the Regulations framed by me under rule 143 of

the Madras Council Rules for the holding of elections, according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 1 p.m. to-morrow (1st August 1946) as the time within which nomination of candidates for election to the House Committee should reach the Secretary.

"If the number of candidates nominated exceeds the number of vacancies, namely, six, there will be an election between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on 6th August 1946."

(ii) Election of one Member to the Advisory Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM :—" Mr. President, I move—

" '*that with reference to G.O. No.* 55, *Railway, dated* 10*th December* 1923, *and rule* 3 *of the existing rules relating to the Local Advisory Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, this Council do recommend to Government to communicate to the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, the name of one person elected by this Council to serve on their Railway Advisory Committee for the remaining period of two years ending with* 31*st March* 1948."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know, Mr. President, whether the Hon. Minister has considered the position arising out of the altered situation of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway? That railway is now a Government concern. Will he be pleased to consider the need for suitably modifying the motion so as to suit the present situation?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM :—" I will consider the question and take action suitably."

The motion, duly seconded, was put and carried.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that the following procedure shall be adopted for conducting the election. The Hon. Members will please had in nominations to the Secretary before 2 p.m. to-morrow (1st August 1946). If the number of candidates nominated exceeds one, an election will be held between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on 7th August 1946. The election will be by the ordinary method and not according to the method of single transferable vote."

VI.—PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce to the House that, under rule 9 of the Madras Council Rules, I have nominated the following three members to be the Panel of Chairmen for the fifth session of the Council in addition to Sri K. Natarajan, whose nomination as such was announced to the House on the 29th May 1946 :—

(1) Diwan Bahadur Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar.
(2) Sri N. Ranga Reddi.
(3) K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur."